

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 00525 120714Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 L-02 TRSE-00 /022 W

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R 111425Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8389

UNCLAS HELSINKI 525

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS US FI

SUBJECT: U.S. FIRM SEEKS TO COLLECT JUDGMENT AGAINST
FINNISH ASSOCIATION PUUTALO

1. COMMERCIAL ATTACHE, EMBASSY HELSINKI, HAS RECEIVED A MEMO FROM ATTORNEY PAUL J. LEVINE REQUESTING AN APPOINTMENT MARCH 24 OR 25. MEMO TRANSMITS COPY OF LETTER TO PAUL CANNEY, OIC, FINNISH-SWEDISH AFFAIRS.

2. IN LETTER MR. LEVINE STATES HE IS ACTING ON BEHALF OF BETTER-BILT HOMES, INC., A FLORIDA CORPORATION. HE ALSO FORWARDS A COPY OF A JUDGMENT IN 1963 BY WALTER F. HOFFMAN, U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE IN NORFOLK, AWARDING OVER 33 THOUSAND DOLLARS PLUS INTEREST TO BETTER-BILT HOMES. DEFENDANTS FROM WHOM THIS SUM IS TO BE RECOVERED ARE FABRIA, INC., NEW YORK CITY, PUUTALO OF FINLAND AND PUUTALO SALES ASSOCIATION OF PREFABRICATED HOUSES. LAST TWO ORGANIZATIONS ARE STATED TO BE RESIDENTS OF FINLAND. MR. LEVINE STATES JUDGMENT HAS GONE UNSATISFIED AND THAT AMOUNT OWED BY PUUTALO INCLUDING INTEREST NOW EXCEEDS \$80 THOUSAND.

3. EMBASSY COMMERCIAL SECTION HAS NO PRESENT KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT EFFORTS AND APPROACHES HAVE BEEN MADE TO EFFECT COLLECTION SINCE THE 1963 JUDGMENT. WE DO NOT PROPOSE TO APPROACH PUUTALO PRIOR TO MR. LEVINE'S ARRIVAL UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE, SINCE WE ASSUME THAT THIS IS WHAT MR. LEINE PROPOSES TO DO. EMBASSY HAS ACKNOWLEDGED MEMO SUGGESTING MARCH 24 FOR APPOINTMENT.

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